



Society of Memphis Magicians



International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16
January 2017 www.ring16.org

From the President

Jeff Day - President

Here we are quickly approaching a new year, 2017. When I was just a small boy, I thought going to the moon was something that science fiction writers wrote about. But then, in MY lifetime, we went to the moon .. SIX TIMES ! Just to think of what technology went into that feat is mind-boggling to me. Now we have phones that have just about as much power as a NASA control room.

Well, here we are well into the 21st century, and I think of what was going on 100 years ago in the world. The first jazz records were recorded, women are given the right to vote in state elections, the Russian Revolution began in Petrograd, the Seattle Metropolitans become the first US hockey team to win Stanley Cup, America enters the War after German U-boat sinks 3 American merchant ships, and an important figure in magic died May 18, 1917.

John Nevil Maskelyne, was born in 1839 and lived for 77 years. He was the inventor of what we refer to as "levitation". Some attribute this illusion to Robert-Houdin, but his "broom suspension" was created after Maskelyne's levitation illusion. Some even credit Harry Keller with "levitation", but Keller actually bribed Maskelyne's magical technician, Paul Valadon, then 'stole' the illusion. Besides the levitation illusion, he also invented the pay toilet. Another famous illusion that made things disappear.

Maskelyne wrote five books, one being a classic among card enthusiasts. "Sharps and Flats: A Complete Revelation of the Secrets of Cheating at Games of Chance and Skill", 1894.

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday - Vice-President

Well, next week kicks off our New Year for Ring 16. I hope you all had a great Holiday Season. However you celebrate, Hanukkah, Christmas, hope you enjoyed it. Congratulations to Jeff, Martin, and John, as officers for 2017. As for me, as Vice-President, it was an honor to work with all of you as President. I hope to do well with upcoming lectures and more! Thanks to you and everyone at Coletta's for making our Holiday/Christmas party a success, and congratulations to Kathy for performing a great initiation, too! Looking forward to seeing you at our January meeting, and hope this newsletter finds you all well. Have a safe and Happy New Year!

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Presents for Annual Gift Swap

Ring 16 January Meeting

Tuesday, January 3rd - 7pm
Memphis Botanic Garden

Annual Initiation
Theme - Magic & Mentalism with Borrowed
Objects

Notes from the President (continued)

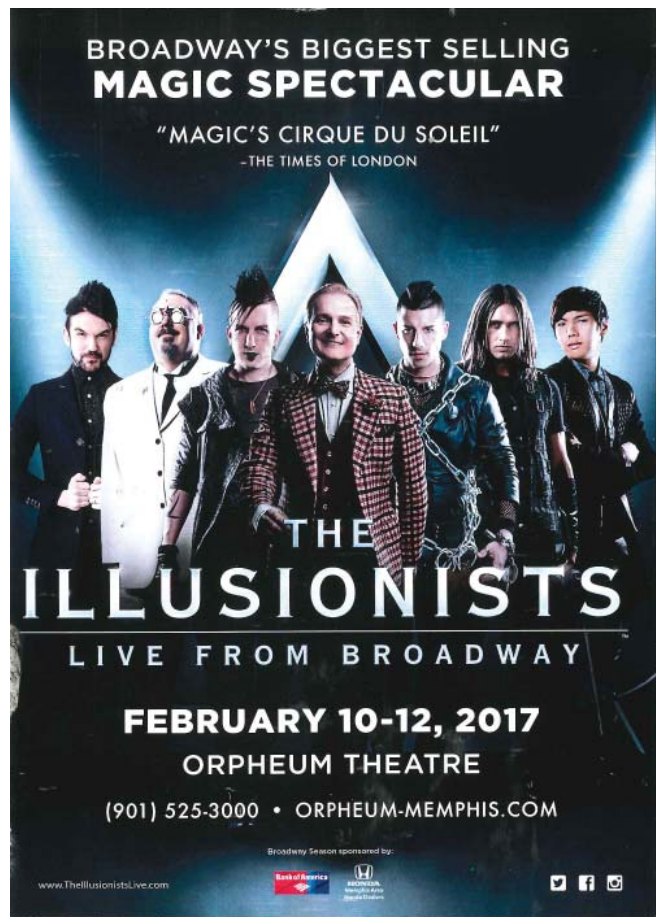
This book was written eight years before S.W. Erdnase's book "Expert at the Card Table". Both books are considered "bibles" on cheating and legerdemain with cards and highly prized publications to most magicians.

In 1917, there was a silent film made called, "Bobby The Magician". It was an enchanting little film starring child actor, Bobby Connelly. The following is the plot and story of the film.

"Entranced by the wonders performed by a magician who entertains the guests at his birthday party, when Bobby is given the magic wand which apparently does these wonders and his little sweetheart expresses a preference for an apple over a walnut, he tells her to look under her pillow the next morning. During the night he steals to her home and replaces the nut, which she holds clasped in her hand, with the wished-for apple. Later, when her canary dies, he demonstrates the efficacy of the wand by taking away the dead bird, returning with a live one which he has bought with a five-dollar gold piece, received on his birthday. His little sweetheart's mother, Mrs. Grover falls ill, and Bobby's adored one calls upon him to make her well. Through the agency of the young magician's father, a widower with the fast growing interest in Mrs. Grover, a New York doctor is brought who effects the final test of the wand. The little girl demands that the wonderful instrument bring her a father as nice as Bobby's. For a moment he is at a loss, but then, recovering, he replies that the job is too big for him, but that he will ask his father what should be done. Willingly, the boy's father takes the wand and goes to Mrs. Grover, later calling in the children and telling them that Bobby is to have a new mother and his little sweetheart a new father."

I hope that all of you have a New Year filled with wonder and that you pass along your magic to others who need it.

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The Illusionists - Live From Broadway

Direct from Broadway, the world's largest magic show is coming to Memphis!

This mind blowing spectacular showcases the jaw dropping talents of seven of the most incredible illusionists on earth. This show has shattered box office records across the globe and dazzles audiences of all ages with a powerful mix of the most outrageous and astonishing acts ever to be seen on stage. This non-stop show is packed with thrilling and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions.

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Grayson Smith Award



Holiday Party (photos by Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene)



Holiday Party (photos by Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene)

